



Jungle Bob's Care Sheet

African Bullfrogs or Pyxie Frogs

(*Pyxicephalus adspersus*)

General Information

Considered by many to be the world's most impressive frog, the huge, aggressive African Bullfrog is relatively easy to care for. Just be sure to plan ahead.

The African Bullfrog ranges from southern Kenya to South Africa, where it frequents seasonally-flooded savannas and brushy scrub.

Adult males may reach 9.6 inches in length and top 3 lbs. in weight. The head supports powerful jaws equipped with tooth-like projections known as odontoid structures. The body may be olive-green or blue-tinged gray in color.

Housing

A 10 gallon terrarium or similar size makes a good home for a baby up to Juvenile size frog. Upgrading to about a 30-40 gallon for a large adult. A water bowl large enough for the frog to submerge in is very helpful as well. Caves/Shelters in which the frog can hide should also be provided. Coco fiber or a ground moss mixture should be used for bedding, but feeding should then be done via tongs or in a large bowl.

A temperature range of Low 70s to mid 80s suits them well. A Heat Pad on one side section of the terrarium is the simplest means of providing a low wattage heat source. African Bullfrogs do not require UVB light, although low UVB levels, and UVA, may be of some benefit.

Diet

Earthworms (night crawlers), roaches, hornworms, butterworms, and crickets can make up most of your frog's diet. A pink mouse may be offered once per week at the most, but furred (adult) rodents should be avoided, as long-term use has been linked to liver problems and fur impactions.

Food (other than pinkies) should be powdered with a Calcium/Vitamin D3 supplement. A multiple vitamin/mineral supplement may be used 2-3 times weekly. Inadequate calcium and Vitamin D3 intake will result in a crippling and often fatal condition known as Metabolic Bone Disease. Youngsters do best when fed daily or every-other-day, while adults require 2-3 meals per week (depending on the size of the meals). Adapted to a harsh environment, African Bullfrogs will eat as much as offered.

Cleaning and Handling

Water should be changed and refreshed daily. Spot clean daily and full substrate cleaning roughly 1-2 times per month. If using a bioactive substrate, full tank cleanings will be necessary far less often. The inside of the terrarium can be cleaned out with an appropriate reptile cage cleaner. Any water used in the terrarium should be dechlorinated.

African Bullfrog jaws bear sharp projections known as odontoid structures. They bite readily in self-defense, and will consider a hand moving in their vicinity as a potential meal. They should be handled only when necessary, and then with wet hands so that the skin's protective mucus is not removed. Amphibian skin secretions may cause irritations when transferred to wounds, eyes, or the mouth. Always wash your hands before and after handling any animal.

Fun Fact

Male African Bullfrogs protect their eggs and tadpoles, and have been observed driving young lions away from their brood! Amazingly, when a pool housing their tadpoles begins to dry up, they will dig a channel from a water-filled pool to the drying pool.

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